

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1552
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 6532

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, GR, US
SUBJ: REACTION TO AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE'S APPEARANCE BEFORE SFRC

REFS: (A) ATHENS 6482, (B) STATE 163757

1. AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE'S APPEARANCE BEFORE THE SFRC CONTINUED AS A PROMINENT NEWS STORY TODAY (JULY 14) AS THE REST OF THE MEDIA BEGAN TO REACT TO THE EFSTATHIADIS REPORTING WHICH APPEARED YESTERDAY (REF A) AND TO THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY (ANA) REPORT FROM WASHINGTON.

2. RADIO AND TV COVERAGE, BASED ON THE ANA REPORT, WAS CONFINED TO A RATHER STRAIGHTFORWARD PRESENTATION OF SOME OF THE POINTS WHICH THE AMBASSADOR WAS SAID TO HAVE MADE DURING HIS TESTIMONY. PRESS ACCOUNTS, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN CAST IN ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE TERMS. MANY VERSIONS TIE THEIR REPORTING OF THE AMBASSADOR'S SFRC APPEARANCE TO OTHER ITEMS INVOLVING TURKEY, ESPECIALLY TO A REPORT THAT THE GOG HAS SOUGHT "CLARIFICATIONS" FROM THE US CONCERNING PRESS REPORTS THAT THE US AND NATO SECRETLY SUPPLIED TURKEY WITH ARMS IN SPITE OF THE 1974 EMBARGO (STATE 162201). (FYI: IN ATHENS, WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY SUCH INQUIRY FROM THE GOG.) INDEPENDENT
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KATHIMERINI ALONE NOTED THAT "OBSERVERS CLOSE TO THE GOG" HAD MADE IT KNOWN THAT AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE'S POSITIONS WERE "NOT FAR" FROM THOSE OF GREEKS ON THE ISSUE OF THE AEGEAN, SINCE HIS PHRASE "UNUSUAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THE PAST" REFERRED TO THE GEOGRAPHIC PECULIARITY OF THE AEGEAN. TODAY, LIBERAL, OPPOSITION TO VIMA, WHICH WAS FIRST TO PRINT THE STORY YESTERDAY, IN A FRONT PAGE BLOCK COLUMN ENTITLED "PERSONA NON GRATA" CLAIMED THAT THE PHRASE

ABOUT THE AEGEAN MEANT AMBASSADOR SCHAUFELER WOULD ATTEMPT TO "RESTORE" THE AEGEAN TO THE TURKS AND CALLED ON THE GOG NOT TO ACCEPT HIM.

3. EDITORIALY, KATHIMERINI QUESTIONED AMBASSADOR SCHAUFELER'S DIPLOMATIC SKILLS, ASKED WASHINGTON TO RECONSIDER HIS NOMINATION AND ATHENS TO REFUSE TO ACCEPT HIM, WHILE ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE ESTIA IN A BITTER EDITORIAL DEMANDED THAT GOG ASK WASHINGTON TO WITHDRAW THE APPOINTMENT. EQUALLY OUTLANDISH WAS COMMUNIST (KKE-INTERIOR) AVGHI WHICH WROTE IN ITS EDITORIAL COLUMN THAT NOT ONLY HAD THE AMBASSADOR IDENTIFIED HIMSELF WITH THE TURKS THROUGH HIS COMMENTS ON THE AEGEAN, BUT HIS STATEMENT REGARDING THE STRENGTHENING OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN GREECE AS A BASIC TENET OF US POLICY WAS "HAIR-RAISING" AND "IRONIC," AND WAS A BAD START FOR THE NEW AMBASSADOR.

4. SAMPLE HEADLINES INCLUDE: PRO-GOVERNMENT ACROPOLIS: "THE AEGEAN ISSUE IS DANGEROUS TO PEACE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN--STRANGE DECLARATIONS OF THE NEW US AMBASSADOR TO ATHENS;" ULTRA-RIGHT ELEFTHEROS COSMOS: "US FEARS THAT PEACE IS IN DANGER IN THE AEGEAN--SCHAUFELER SAYS: 'DISPUTE DUE TO GEOGRAPHICAL ARRANGEMENTS'--INVESTIGATION WHETHER TURKEY RECEIVED ILLEGALLY MORE ARMS THROUGH NATO;" INDEPENDENT KATHIMERINI: "WITH REGARD TO THE CAUSES OF THE GREEK TURKISH DISPUTE THE NEW US AMBASSADOR TO GREECE FORMULATES VIEWS WITH DOUBLE-MEANING ABOUT THE AEGEAN--IN ATHENS THESE ARE INTERPRETED AS NOT BEING FAR FROM THE GREEK POSITIONS;"
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LEFTIST ELEFTHEROTYPIA: "US INNUENDO AGAINST OUR AEGEAN BORDERS--THE AMBASSADOR SPEAKS OF 'UNUSUAL ARRANGEMENTS';" ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE ESTIA: "THE NEW US AMBASSADOR IS PREJUDICED--ELOQUENT STATEMENTS AND STRANGE COINCIDENCE."

5. COMMENT: DRAWING ON USEFUL INFORMATION IN STATE 163757 WE HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO CORRECT THE RECORD WITH THE GREEKS. AT FRENCH NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION THIS NOON DCM GAVE CLARIFICATION TO MINISTER OF COORDINATION PAPALIGOURAS, WHO LAST NIGHT HAD EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND CONSTERNATION AT REPORTED REMARKS, AND TO SEVERAL MFA OFFICIALS, DIPLOMATS AND JOURNALISTS. PAO HARATUNIAN SPOKE IN SIMILAR VEIN TO GOG PRESS SPOKESMAN LAMBRIAS WHO PROMISED TO USE THE MATERIAL IN HIS 8:00 P.M. PRESS BRIEFING TONIGHT. MEANWHILE, WE HAVE RECEIVED UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF SFRC TESTIMONY VIA USINFO BUT IT WILL NOT HELP US MUCH HERE BECAUSE OF THE MANY KEY PASSAGES WHICH WERE OMITTED BECAUSE INAUDIBLE. LESLIE FINER INTERVIEW OF AMBASSADOR SCHAUFELER MENTIONED BY JIM MORTON IN TELECON WITH DCM SHOULD BE USEFUL VEHICLE FOR HELPING SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT, AS WOULD VOA INTERVIEW WE SUGGESTED ON PHONE WHICH COULD BE BROADCAST IN GREEK WITH LATER DISTRIBUTION OF TEXT TO PRESS.
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